

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY: China

SECURITY INFORMATION

DATE DISTR. 21 SEP 51

SUBJECT: Highway and Railroad Construction

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. In June 1951 the Chinese Communist authorities in Peiping sent circular orders to the various Communist regional governments instructing them to submit plans for the construction and repair of strategic highways for national defense.¹ In late June orders were received by JAO Shu-shih, Chairman of the East China Military and Administrative Committee, who summoned experts to Shanghai in late July to draft the plans requested.
2. In April 1951 the Kwangtung Military Control Commission in compliance with suggestions of Soviet advisers, ordered the Communist engineering unit in Huiyang (114-26, 23-05) to mobilize 20,000 civilians to assist the engineering battalion of the 4 Field Army to construct and repair highways linking Changmu (114-06, 22-53) and Huiyang, Huiyang and Tanshui (114-28, 22-47), and Huiyang and Jenschan (114-48, 22-49) along the coast. Highway bridges will be rebuilt to carry seven-ton trucks, and the highway surfaces and detours are to be reinforced. On 2 May the Construction Department of the Kwangtung Government sent a group of sixty men to survey the coast from Shat'ouchiao (114-14, 22-32) in the Miao Bay area to Jenschan in the Bias Bay area, a distance of over 43 miles. The government was ordered to complete construction of the roadbed between these two places within a month and to open the highway to traffic in mid-July.

SECURITY INFORMATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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3. In mid-April, the Canton branch of the Hengyang Railway Administration was ordered to carry out the plan previously drawn up by the Nationalist Government for the construction of the Canton-Meihsien (116-13, 24-18) railway via Huiyang, Hoyuan (114-48, 23-42), Langchou (115-03, 22-57), and Hsingning (115-59, 24-04), because other means of transportation were insufficient for the transport of large quantities of goods. A group of engineers was immediately dispatched to Kwangtung to make the necessary surveys.
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4. On 11 June HSIAO Tsung-wen (蕭宗文), assistant director of the Laipin-Chennankuan Railway Administration Office, arrived in Lungchou from Nanning to survey the construction work on the railway between Nanning and Chennankuan. At this time, nine major and twenty-one smaller bridges were under construction and the number of men employed on the construction work had been increased in order to speed up the work. There was a shortage of rails and railway ties for the construction work and the newly-built foundation could not be used properly because of the continuous rain. It was estimated that the railway could not be completed prior to the end of September.
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5. The Chungking-Lanchow Railroad is scheduled for completion by the end of 1951. After the completion of the Ch'engtu-Chungking² and the Tienhsui-Lanchow sections of the Chungking-Lanchow Railroad, work will be rushed on the Tienhsui-Ch'engtu section. Engineers, laborers, and equipment used on other sections will then be used on the Tienhsui-Ch'engtu section. There are large numbers of Soviet engineers at Ch'engtu and Chungking to supervise the construction of the Chungking-Lanchow Railroad. About 20,000 locally recruited civilian laborers and approximately 2,000 mechanics, forcibly recruited by the Nanking-Shanghai and the Canton-Hankow railroad officials, are working day and night on the construction of this railroad.³
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6. In July the Hsiaooshan (120-17, 30-10) Tsao (120-52, 30-01) section of the Hangchow-Ningpo railroad⁴ and the Chiahsing (120-45, 30-46)-Chap'u (121-06, 30-37) railroad were completed; the Paikuan (120-52, 30-02)-Ningpo section was under construction.
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1. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] stated that the East China Military Area Command had ordered its provincial military commands to assist provincial highway administrations to repair bridges of major inter-province highways.
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2. [REDACTED] Comment. The progress in the construction of the Ch'engtu-Chungking railroad was reported in [REDACTED]
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3. [REDACTED] Comment. The laying of tracks on the proposed Tienhsui-Lanchow railroad was scheduled to be started in October 1951, according to [REDACTED]
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4. [REDACTED] Comment. In mid-May the authorities were planning to rebuild the Hangchow-Ningpo railroad, according to [REDACTED]

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